

ALCOVA HEIGHTS

The Newsletter of the Alcova Heights Neighborhood, Arlington, Virginia

alcovaheights.com

October 2017

Annual Alcova Heights Halloween Parade

Saturday October 28, 2017

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Join us for the parade and FUN FUN FUN with refreshments, a raffle, games and CANDY!

Meet at church lot corner of 8th & Monroe St. at 3:30. Parade to park begins at 3:45 pm.

Please drop off candy at the Barker House: 3829 7th St.

Want to volunteer? Questions?

Jessicasayersbarker@gmail.com

Tini.dinh@gmail.com

Mmmcleroy@gmail.com

A Good Neighbor: Ross Campbell

Introducing a new feature, in which neighbors can celebrate each other.



I would like to recognize our neighbor, Ross Campbell of 7th St., for his good neighborliness. Ross is a pretty humble guy so he would never mention this himself. Our daughters are at the

same bus stop for Drew Elementary School. Ross noticed that we had a porch swing sitting on the porch for several months. I had been planning to get around to hanging it but just hadn't done it. Frankly, I was a little daunted by the task. Ross volunteered to help me out of the blue. He had noticed it sitting there and knew he had the skills to get it done. He is an experienced contractor with lots of tools and know-how. Ross gave up an entire Saturday morning to help me get it securely hung. I couldn't have done it without him. - Marc Oliphant, 3711 8th St.

President's Update

by Lander Allin, AHCA President

I hope everyone is enjoying our beautiful fall weather that finally arrived. I understand that the block party was a huge success, and that someone deemed it to be the best one ever. *(See photos below.)* Unfortunately I was out of town for a wedding. I'm sorry I missed it!

Our next big event is coming up quickly. The annual Alcova Heights Halloween Parade will be held on Saturday, October 28, at 3:30pm. Everyone will meet prior to that at the Baptist Church at 8th and Monroe to get organized. We'll depart at 3:45pm for our leisurely stroll down 8th Street to the Park. There will be refreshments, candy and games at the Park.



We got a recent update from the County on the developments at the Foreign Affairs Training Center. Their project is still moving forward but at a slower pace than originally planned. While the trail from Quincy over to George Mason hasn't yet closed, it will in the next 6 months or so. Unfortunately, our efforts to save the sledding hill were unsuccessful. Citing security concerns, the State Department will not change the alignment of their new fence around the child care facility to save the hill. Hopefully we'll get a lot of snow this winter, so we can make use of it for one last season.

Construction of the APAH affordable housing project on the old Presbyterian Church site continues at a good pace. The pile driving is complete and excavation of the site is ongoing. The tower crane will go up by the end of November with concrete pouring commencing about the same time. There have been a few issues concerning parking and truck traffic, but Peter Neubauer has done a nice job of addressing those issues with APAH and the construction management company. If at any point you have concerns or complaints, please contact Peter at neubauer.p@yahoo.com.

That's it for now. See you at the Halloween Parade!



The Little Free Library of Children's Weekday Program

by Megan Sullivan

In October of 2016, my mother-in-law, Kathleen Sullivan, passed away. She was a teacher, a mother, a fantastic grandmother, and – in many ways – a member of Alcova Heights community. While she did not live in our neighborhood, she was a regular presence here.

Kathleen spent countless hours at our house watching our three kids. Many neighbors probably saw her playing in our yard or at the bus stop with her grandkids, Kieran, Madi, and Lena. Kathleen was also a teacher at the Children's Weekday Program at the United Methodist Church on 8th Street. Her children went to this preschool and her grandchildren followed in their footsteps almost 30 years later. She taught at the preschool for over 20 years, and helped play a part in the early years of many children in our neighborhood.

Other than her family, I think it's safe to say that she loved nothing more than caring for and teaching children. Many kids in our neighborhood were rocked, fed and read-to by Kathleen. She taught them the days of the week, the colors of the rainbow, and many Alcova Heights toddlers



Left: Little Free Library dedication. Right: Kathleen Sullivan with her grandkids.



who refused to respect naptime, met their match when they walked into Mrs. Sullivan's classroom.

In the spring of this year, her sisters – of which she has eight – traveled from the Chicago area to install a Little Free Library outside the preschool in her honor. It has been filled with children's books since the spring, and there is a little picnic table nearby to sit and read a book.

I suggest neighbors take a look the next time they walk down 8th street, towards Glebe Road, and maybe think of my mother-in-law Kathleen Sullivan.

Election Day is November 7!

by Marie Van Ness

Tuesday, November 7, 2017 is Election Day here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We will be electing a new governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general as well as our state house delegate, a county board member and school board member.

Opportunities to exercise your right to vote either before or on Election Day: The last date to register to vote was October 16. If you have moved since the last election, it is important to update your registration to your current address. If you will be 18 on or before 7 November, you can register to vote. **Absentee Ballots, sent by mail, must be received by October 31st.** Allow 3-5 days for delivery.

Election day, the polls are open from 6am-7pm. The majority of Alcova Heights neighbors vote at Thomas Jefferson Center on S. 2nd St. For some neighbors, on the western end of the neighborhood, the polling place is Barcroft Elementary School, 625 S.Wakefield St. For more information specific to your situation, you can call 703-228- 3456 or go to vote.arlingtonva.us. Check to see if a neighbor needs ride to Early-In Person Voting or a ride to the polls on Election Day. **Bring a valid picture ID.**



Absentee Voting - By Mail	Deadlines:
Application for a ballot to be mailed must be received in our office via fax, email, or mail	Tues, Oct 31 at 5pm
Ballots must be received to be counted	Tues, Nov 7 at 7pm
Absentee Voting - In Person	Dates:
In-Person Absentee Voting runs from:	Fri Sept 22 through Sat Nov 4
Courthouse Plaza 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320	Mon-Fri, Sept 22-Oct 27, 8am-5pm Sat Oct 21, 8:30am-5pm Sat Oct 28, 8:30am-5pm Mon Oct 30, 8am-5pm Tues-Thu, Oct 31-Nov 2, 8am-7pm Fri Nov 3, 8am-5pm Sat Nov 4, 8:30am-5pm

A Neighbor Profile: Megan Sullivan

We moved to AH in October of 2003. I remember because it was Halloween. We had just moved in, and I felt bad because we didn't have any candy to give out to the kids trick-or-treating. We've been trying to make up for that every year.

I grew up in Pennsylvania. My husband Michael (aka: Sully) Sullivan grew up in Alexandria, and even went to the preschool at the United Methodist Church on 8th and Glebe. (It's called Children's Weekday Program, and it is a fabulous preschool and parents-day-out program). We have three kids who followed in my husband's footsteps at the preschool: Kieran Sullivan, 12; Madeline Sullivan, 10; and Lena Sullivan, 7. They not only went to this same preschool, they had the same teacher. Mrs. Barham, who taught Michael, Kieran, Madi, and Lena, is still teaching today. Our kids all went to Barcroft Elementary, and Kieran is now at Jefferson Middle School.



Megan with her children, ready for Halloween!

Sully and I met at the University of Pennsylvania. He played basketball and I played field hockey and we met when a bunch of athletes were hanging out together. He never said a word, and I thought he was a jerk. I was very wrong. It turns out he's a pretty nice guy.

We got married a year out of college and two years after that bought our house in Alcovia Heights with no working kitchen, one bathroom and a lot of naive ideas about what we were going to do. Two renovations, and three kids later, we are now the old married couple watching young families and kids move into the neighborhood.

It was my job that brought us to this area to live. I got a job on Capitol Hill working for a political consultant, and Sully was happy to relocate to this area, since it's where his family lives. My job was as a video editor, tasked with making the TV ads for different politicians and candidates running for office around the country. I knew nothing about politics and just wanted to make TV ads.

Seventeen years later, I've made the political ads for Senators Tom Daschle, Tim Johnson, Max Cleland, Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, Mark Pryor, Joe Manchin, and ev-

ery ad for our own Governor and Senator Tim Kaine. Also, for so many congressman and congresswomen and many governors that I've honestly lost track. A couple of our neighbors have even helped me out and been in some of the ads. I bet you didn't know that Jen Ebbert was in an ad for a congresswoman in Kentucky?

I also worked on the first season of *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, and a number of crime/drama shows for the ID Network. Believe it or not, politics is more fun. I worked at that job on Capitol Hill for 14 years, and in 2015 continued doing the same kind of work, but now for Georgetown Post, in Georgetown, DC.

These days my extracurricular activities include coaching my kids' soccer teams, shuttling them from one activity to another and trying to spend any extra time with our awesome neighbors in Alcovia Heights. A couple years ago, I spent some of my extra time doing triathlons with fellow neighbors Beth Connors and Zuraidah Hoffman. We ran and biked all over Arlington. They helped me get back in shape and be more active. It's those kinds of neighbors that make our neighborhood so great.

Alcovia Heights is the best kept secret in Arlington. We have the proximity to DC, and restaurants and activities (especially now with all the new development on Columbia Pike), but we still have nice houses with great-sized yards, and (mostly) don't struggle with parking issues and congestion like other areas of Arlington. In 2013 our house was too small for our family, and we wanted more space. We considered moving, but most houses in Arlington have little to no yard. Alcovia Heights has good sized lots and even better: great neighbors. We decided to build up, instead of move out.

This is a neighborhood where people like to play Cornhole at the annual Memorial Day party. The kids learn how to ride their bikes in the parking lot across the street. I can walk to dinner or ride my bike into work. Sully and I can sit on our front porch any night of the week and someone will stop by to talk and hang out. More often than not it's Lois Koontz and her dog Jordan, and Jordan will go into our house and relax if it's hot. That's the way I like it. Our home is yours...or your dog's.

In just the last six months, three neighbors have moved away, and we are now surrounded by new families. Some with kids, some with dogs, and some with a basketball hoop that my kids have taken over. It's a pretty great place to live, and it just seems to be getting better.

School News

by Lois Koontz

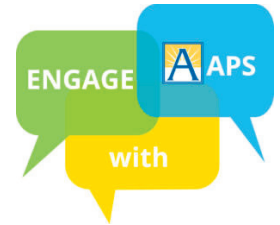
I hesitated to take on a schools update because there's so much going on this year beyond the usual and customary business of teaching and the annual operating budget prep. This year alone, the school system will:

- draw new boundaries for middle schools (this fall);
- draw new boundaries in many if not most elementary schools (spring);
- create a new 6-year strategic plan;
- update the student accommodation plan (i.e. student number projection and where they will be, called the AFSAP);
- adopt a new capital plan to build more capacity (begins winter); and
- refine the 1:1 technology policies with an eye toward "acceptable use"

There are many ways you can be involved. For each of the new buildings soon-to-be under construction, there will be committees to advise the schools and work with the county (BLPC and PFRC respectively).

In the meantime, if you are curious about the process for redrawing boundaries for middle school (AH currently goes to Thomas Jefferson), here is a link to a presentation from a board work session that gives some good conceptual

considerations: [https://www.board-docs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/AR6GKM44281D/\\$file/MS%20Boundaries%20WS%20Presentation%209-12-17.pdf](https://www.board-docs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/AR6GKM44281D/$file/MS%20Boundaries%20WS%20Presentation%209-12-17.pdf)



Changes to middle school boundaries will affect today's 4th, 5th and 6th graders in 2019 when they are entering grades 6-8. Meetings to keep you abreast of this process will be recorded for reference anytime. Here is the planned schedule:

1. Oct. 2 (Yorktown) and Oct 4 (Kenmore) "Getting Started" community meetings (Feedback gathered online through October 18)
2. Oct. 25 (Yorktown) and Oct 26 (Wakefield) "What We Heard" community meetings (Feedback gathered online through November 3)
3. Nov 14, Superintendent recommendations to the School Board
4. Nov 30th Public hearings
5. Dec 14th School Board Action

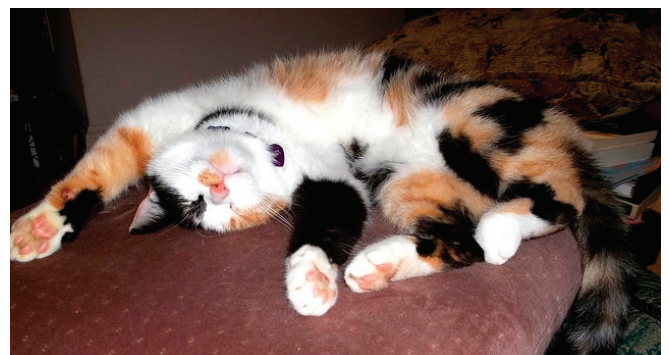
You can get regular updates on the APS Engage page of the APS website. I encourage you to get your feet wet by attending at least one meeting this year on any of the above topics!

Announcements & Milestones

The **McMahons** of 7th St. celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary. **Alexander Al-Hujazi** of 7th St. began freshman year at George Mason University. **Erin Ingram** of 7th St. began freshman year at Drexel University. Newsletter editor **Mike Rhode** edited *The Incomplete Art of Why Things Are*, a collection of cartoons by Richard Thompson. **Allison and Patrick Sell** of 7th St., along with daughter **Kennedy** and son **Wiley**, welcomed **Josephine** into their family last December. **Matthew Sheehey and Lisa Chesnel** with sons **Peter and Patrick** moved to 8th St. in June. **Laurel and Forrest Veit** both started at NOVA this fall. **Nishita Barauh** of 7th St. is attending American University. **Doug, Heather, Liam, Ellie and Dane Arterburn** have moved onto 7th St. **Natalie Manlove** is attending Arlington Tech High School (located at the Arlington Career Center), as a freshman (if you'd like to learn more about this new project-based learning Arlington High School, we'd be happy to share). **Cassidy Camille Jeffers** was born to **Alexandria Stevens and Benjamin Jeffers** of 7th St on September 29th. **Sarah Whitworth** and her fiancé **Chris Higginbotham** moved into 3923 7th St. in the last week of September.

Pet of the Month: *Chrissy*

Chrissy rules the roost at 3900 7th St., answering only to Claire Rhode, who rescued her from the animal shelter, and even then only when she feels like it. She pals around with her canine sibling, Sarge, and waits patiently for her staff, Mike and Cathy, to open doors, fetch cat treats, etc. She has a multitude of napping spots, but among her favorite is her catnip garden of bliss in the backyard.



A Neighbor Profile: *Barbara Schelstrate*

This summer Barbara Schelstrate saw the premiere of a musical she wrote based on a Shakespeare play. Rather than just put a note about that in the newsletter, we asked her for an interview.



Tom and I moved to Alcovia Heights in 1982. We had been living in a rental across George Mason Drive on 4th Street and liked South Arlington, but this was going to be our first home purchase and we wanted to explore all options. One of the houses we considered was near H.B. Woodlawn on Vacation Lane. The house was nice, but every minute-and-a-half – as

we sat on the porch chatting with our realtor – a plane flew overhead, drowning out all conversation. Fortunately, at about the same time we saw 3507 8th Street South in Alcovia Heights. It needed work, but we liked its openness and charm, and that decided it!

At the time, Tom and I were the youngest on the block, even though we were both 36 years old! When our daughter Emily was born in January, 1984, she was the only child in our immediate neighborhood. So in those early years, most of our friend group came from Tom's colleagues at Washington-Lee or Emily's friends at the Arlington Methodist Parents Day Out. But we still felt connected to Alcovia Heights, partly because we loved our house and partly because of our next-door neighbors to the east – Dan and Alice Nicolson. They helped us with gardening advice, home-repair, and even computer issues! Great neighbors!

As I mentioned, Emily was born not too long after we moved to Alcovia Heights. I already had two sons, both of whom are adults now, living in Atlanta. During their growing-up years, they visited frequently or spent summers with us. By the time Emily went to elementary school at Drew, there still were not many young kids in our neighborhood. So her activities took her out of Alcovia Heights – swim team, Brownies and Girl Scouts, county and regional orchestras (she took violin from the second grade on). In fact, it was through Emily that I got back into music, really. I had been working at National Public Radio before she was born. But with a daughter in

various musical pursuits, I began playing piano for violin group classes and school performances.

Tell us about the musical version of a Shakespeare play that you wrote that was performed last month in DC.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is probably one of Shakespeare's most popular plays, and rightfully so. It is clever, comical, and, of course, beautifully written. And in many ways it seems to me quite musical, with its lovers, mischievous fairies, and goofy workmen whose efforts to be serious just end up being hilarious. In 2011, I wrote ten songs to go with this play, which we called *A Midsummer Night's Musical* and mounted at the Unitarian Church on Route 50. Last year, when the summer theater group at Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW) wanted to do something different from its usual Gilbert and Sullivan, I suggested a fleshed-out version of that original show.

This was last spring. So for the next three or four months, I pretty much lived in the little composing space in our den, with its music scoring program on my computer and the attached piano keyboard. And we made it! There are now 24 pieces, our director, Lise Bruneau, was marvelous and we had some fine singer/actors to play the parts. The whole process was really fun!

Any other professional work? Any hobbies?

I spend most of my time working on music projects of one sort or another – playing for student recitals, accompanying school choruses, music-directing shows and so on. One group for which I music-direct is ArtStream: every year we put on a one-act musical with a group of special-needs adults in Arlington. It's very satisfying work. Other hobbies include hiking or walking, knitting or crocheting, and making tomato preserves!

Do you have a favorite thing about living in Alcovia Heights?

I've always loved it here, but there've been big changes in the last five or 10 years that have made it a more vibrant community than ever. We are now the oldest people on our block! Many of our new neighbors are in their 30s or 40s. There are three couples with babies either right next to us or just across the street! So there's a nice mix of ages and it's exciting to see Alcovia Heights energized in this way: Tom and I love it!

A Neighbor Profile: *Larry Yungk*

We moved to Alcova Heights in 1993. My partner Dang and I were already living in South Arlington, when we decided to get a house. We wanted to stay nearby and this was our favorite neighborhood. The houses were (just!) within our budget and convenient to DC, thus a short commute. We've never regretted the choice.

We are a family of two. Dang and I have been together for 26 years, and happily two years ago we were finally able to get married. Dang is originally from Thailand but has lived in the US since the 1970s. He is a professional chef. For ten years he had a restaurant in Washington, DC called Thai Kitchen. Before that he cooked for the Park Hyatt Hotel at what is now the Blue Duck Tavern.

I was born in Pennsylvania, but grew up in a small town outside of Akron, Ohio. I came to the DC area in 1980 to go to law school – but dropped out and ultimately ended up in a career assisting refugees.

Our household also has three English Setters: Mali, Gemma and Penny. They are sweet rescue dogs that look very similar. I am sure many neighbors wonder why we're always walking that one dog so often!

You're about to retire in November from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. Can you tell us more?

I was with UNHCR for 31 years. I was involved with refugee resettlement to the US as the principal person responsible in UNHCR for coordinating our global resettlement work with the US refugee programs. I also oversaw resettlement from 27 countries in the Caribbean and South America. I was based in Washington but traveled frequently – logging more than a million miles to every continent except Antarctica. It was a fantastic job and was also an excellent way to overcome my fear of being in airplanes and public speaking.

A career with UNHCR is extremely rewarding, but stressful work. Knowing what refugees go through, hearing their stories, and being so limited in what you can do to help all of them... is hard. What kept me going were the people at my side – co-workers, colleagues in other agencies, and refugees. I hope to keep doing something with refugees, but I felt after three decades it was, to paraphrase John F. Kennedy, time to pass the torch to a new generation at UNHCR.

I had an assortment of unrelated jobs before ending up in refugee work. I worked in retail, spent several years

with Georgetown University Libraries, and throughout college and for a year after I was a steelworker (if you have ever seen the movie *the Deer Hunter* – that was filmed in my mill.)

I still do old-fashioned black and white film photography thanks to Arlington Adult Ed classes. I collect old LPs and make videos for some of the out-of-print music and post on

YouTube. Dang and I do a lot of gardening. Dang learned gardening on his own after moving here and has transformed our yard over the years from a big empty lawn to an extensive set of gardens.

I was on the Alcova Heights board from around 1994 to 2004. I was President in the late 1990s when a major achievement of the association was revising the then-30-year-old Neighborhood Conservation Plan (other neighbors, including our current President Lander Allin, spent many hours on that plan.) The revised plan led to: upgrades to the park (pavilions, playground, ball field), modernized streetlights, sidewalks on 7th and 8th streets, the retaining wall on Randolph, a sidewalk on Columbia Pike, and getting the last gravel street paved. (Bonus points if you know which one that was!*) I had to reduce my association activities due to my increasing responsibilities and travel at UNHCR. However, with retirement I hope to have a bit more time to be engaged with the AHCA.

We have had wonderful neighbors, and that first and foremost is what we have appreciated. We also love the park and the wildlife that is all around – so surprisingly close to Washington.

*The Lincoln St. stub off 7th St. and alley between 6th and 7th St.



Babysitter available

14 year old HS Freshman available on evenings and weekends for childcare. experience with babies to elementary age. Red Cross babysitting certificate (2016). In neighborhood references available. **Please contact Natalie Manlove (703) 862-3867.**

Alcova Heights Water Main Upgrade Slated to Begin Oct. 30

As a part of Arlington's asset management program, water distribution mains are regularly evaluated for renewal or replacement. The condition of Alcova Heights' water mains meet Arlington's criteria for replacement. Consequently, a construction project is scheduled in the immediate area consisting of the installation of a new water main.

Project Areas:

1. South Oakland St. from 7th St S to 9th St. S
2. 8th St. South, from S Oakland to S Monroe St
3. S. Lincoln St from 9th St to Columbia Pike

The water main contractor will mobilize and begin main replacement the week of October 30, 2017. This work is anticipated to take between 80 – 110 working days. Residents should expect inconveniences such as: dust, mud, noise, debris, and possible reduction in water pressure, short interruptions in water service, temporary traffic and parking restriction. We will make every effort to minimize the inconvenience and greatly appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

The Construction Manager on the project, Louis Robinson, can be reached at 571-274-2257 or lrobinson@arlingtonva.us. For any after-hours emergency, please call the WSSB Control Center at 703-228-6555.

Water Main Replacement Process:

The work will take place in several stages:

- Marking of existing utilities, saw cutting of existing asphalt and movement of equipment and material to the street.
- Construction of the new water main and fire hydrants. If there are any scheduled service disruptions, you will receive a 48-hour notice prior to.
- Abandoning the old water main and removing/relocating old fire hydrants.
- Restoration of the site.

How you can help:

- Please do not park on the portion of the road that is closed. Park your vehicle in the driveway or clear of the construction area.
- The worksite will have equipment, material and others hazards, so keep clear of work and storage areas.

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Newsletter editors: Mike Rhode and Susi Lill

## ARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH



**JOIN US  
ON SUNDAYS  
FOR WORSHIP  
AT 10:30 A.M.**

*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. — 1 John 4:10*

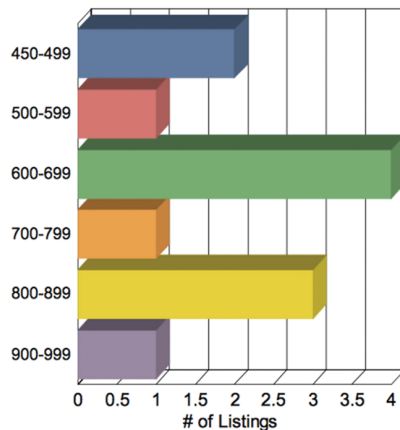
714 S. Monroe Street, Arlington, VA 22204

[www.arlingtonbaptist.com](http://www.arlingtonbaptist.com)

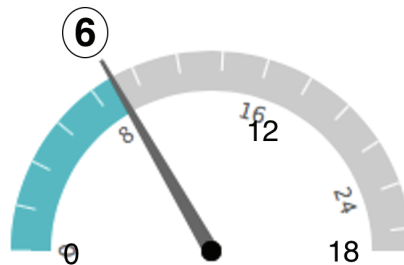
# ALCOVA HEIGHTS

## 2017 3rd Quarter Review (July-Sept)

List Price (in thousands)



Median Days on Market



% of Sold Price to Original List Price

99.8

Alcov HeightsVA.com

| ADDRESS         | STATUS   | PRICE     | BED/BATH | DOM |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----|
| 3912 6th St S   | Active   | \$699,950 | 4/3      | 111 |
| 3916 6th St S   | Contract | \$549,995 | 3/2      | 7   |
| 3716 5th St S   | Sold     | \$839,900 | 4/3.5    | 12  |
| 849 Monroe St S | Sold     | \$865,000 | 4/3.5    | 5   |
| 3521 8th St S   | Sold     | \$725,000 | 3/2      | 0   |
| 3517 8th St S   | Sold     | \$549,000 | 2/2      | 11  |
| 3913 8th St S   | Sold     | \$875,000 | 5/3.5    | 52  |
| 3924 8th St S   | Sold     | \$695,000 | 3/2      | 5   |
| 813 Quincy St S | Sold     | \$450,000 | 2/1      | 41  |
| 3916 7th St S   | Sold     | \$915,000 | 4/2/2    | 0   |
| 3923 7th St S   | Sold     | \$665,000 | 3/2      | 5   |
| 4022 9th St S   | Sold     | \$500,000 | 3/2      | 0   |

We are your neighbors. We'd like to be your Realtors. Diane lives in Alcov Heights and Mitch lives just down the road in Shirlington. We've been selling real estate in Arlington for a combined total of almost 30 years. Whatever your real estate needs, we can guide you through the process. If you are thinking of moving or just want to talk about the value of your home, **please give either one of us a call!**



**Diane Duston**

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**Mitch Curtis**

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